

1/22/73

Hal---

Let me know if this appraisal
~~is~~ of what's going on makes
sense to you.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E.D.' or similar, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The warning signs of loss of freedom are well known. Great Republics of the past have gone through a series of well-recognized steps leading straight to the destruction of all freedom and the establishment of a suffocating dictatorship.

1. One of the first steps has always been increased government controls—harassment through complicated reports, inspection of records, particularly of those individuals who do not agree with the party in power. The loss of real freedom is accentuated by the fact that a contribution to the party in power will eliminate most of these harassments.

2. Another warning come when officials, both military and civilian, are muzzled and prevented from giving the people information vital to their interests, information which cannot be classed as secret because it is well known to our enemies. This kind of information is withheld because it is detrimental to the political health of the administration. This warning signal has been flying for some time.

3. A warning is given when manufactured news appears. This is now a frequent occurrence in Washington.

4. One of the clearest danger signals comes when the executive, whether at the national, the state, or the city level, is successful in controlling, buying, stealing or falsifying the vote. This danger signal is flying ominously today.

5. Another meaningful signal which is always involved in the process of take-over by those hungry for power, is the successful effort of the executive to influence and control the people's representatives. Pressure, threats, arm-twisting, and blackmail are all used to make the representative conform. This was a procedure which Hitler found very useful in maintaining his dictatorship. We regret to state that this type of control is being practiced by the President of the United States today.

6. Assumption of power is always accompanied by a campaign to lull the people into a sense of security. Material well-being and prosperity are advertised as the most important objectives.

The history of Rome is essentially that of a power struggle between the people and individuals who aspired to dictatorship. Every time the people accepted material prosperity in exchange for freedom and individual character, they lost. Finally the people discovered that they had surrendered their rights, along with their integrity and their self-respect. In return they became subjects of a dictator who distributed free food and provided daily spectacles to amuse the populace. The resulting deterioration of initiative, the suppression of basic moral values,

the death of individual freedoms and a general rottenness of society, led unerringly to the fall of Rome.

7. The most important danger signal comes in the field of integrity, in the area of both public and individual morality. A free people has a right to expect, yes to demand, that the highest office in the nation shall be held by a man of unquestioned character, a man with a background of unimpeachable honesty. The danger flag in this field streams out today so that all must see it.

The time has come for an aroused American people to demand that their freedoms be respected. The time has come for a crystalization of all the moral forces of America. The moment has arrived for citizens to demand that integrity and freedom shall not—must not perish from the land.